have been issued in respect of 1,62,461 State service personnel. No case of division and mutual transfers is pending with the Central Government.

(b) As per available records 44 cases of employees, who have filed writ petitions against their final allocation orders, are pending in the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(c) No case relating to transfer of spouse in the successor States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is pending for final allocation with the Central Government. A State Advisory Committee, has, however, been set up *w.e.f.* 1.10.2004 to give its recommendations on the representations of State Government personnel, against their final allocation orders in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

(d) No case is pending decision in the Central Government.

Secretaries to Government of India

2570. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Secretaries heading the various Ministries and Departments of Government of India; and

(b) the number of years of service put in by each of them in the Additional Secretary grade before they were appointed as Secretaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Total number of Secretaries heading the various Union Ministries and Departments as on 11-03-2005-73.

(b) The eligibility of officers for holding the post of Secretary as laid down under the central Staffing Scheme is as under:—

> "Minimum of two years of service in a post carrying a basic pay of Rs. 22400/- or above. (Note: In case of All India Services officers who stand allocated to different cadres, eligibility criteria will apply to the entire batch as soon as one officer of the batch has put in the required 2 years of service on a post carrying a basic pay of Rs. 22400/- P.M.")

Stringent criteria of selection would apply to members of all the services.

Reservation in promotion for OBCs

2571. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make provision for reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in promotion in services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Constitution of India does not permit reservation for OBCs in the matter of promotion.

Enhancement of Gratuity and DCRG

2572. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the limit of Gratuity and DCRG to Rs. 5 lakhs keeping in view the merger of 50 per cent of DA with the basic salary;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when orders are likely to be issued; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to enhance the limit of Gratuity and DCRG from Rs. 3.50 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.